



Arlington Council on Aging

Minutes

Date: Thursday December 15, 2022 Time: 6:00 pm

Present: Anne Brown, Sheila Connerney, Nancy Cox

Associate Members: Rick Fentin, Mara Klein-Collins, Paul Raia, Bob Tosi, Jr., Marjorie Vanderhill

Location: This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. Attendees can attend in person at the Arlington Community Center or virtually via zoom. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. Please call 781-316-3401 or e-mail KShah@town.arlington.ma.us for the link to join the meeting which can be accessed by computer with internet access or by telephone for audio access only.

Kristine Shah, Executive Director

Michael Quinn, Chair

Sheila Connerney, Secretary

The Council's primary responsibilities are to design, promote, and implement programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population, and to coordinate existing services in the community.

1. Call to order 6:03pm
2. Citizen's Open Forum
3. Minutes of the November meeting for approval

Minutes from the November 2022 meeting were not approved as we do not have a quorum. Tabled until next meeting.

4. Executive Director's Report

6. Report of the Chair

N/A.

8. Minuteman Senior Services Report

Volunteers still needed for Meals on Wheels as well as money management. Also seeking another board member from Arlington for the Minuteman Board. Homebound people can register for home-based Covid vaccinations at PatientPortalMA.com

10. Old Business

11. New Business

12. Other Community Announcements

13. Adjourn. Nancy Cox motioned to adjourn at 6:40pm. Anne Brown seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm. **Next meeting: January 19, 2023**

Executive Director's Report: Kristine Shah

- I. COA Programs & Services Update
 - a. Programs and Activities continue to have high attendance and many waiting lists. We are finding ways to accommodate as many people as possible in our programs at the Community Center while balancing the program costs and staff bandwidth.
 - b. Our Holiday Jazz Luncheon has had a waiting list for weeks and hosted 100 residents today. Arlington Police Department members served the meals. Warm Wishes Holiday Gift Bags were assembled by APD following the luncheon and will be delivered to 100 older adults in town through December 22. The gift bag included personal items, household items and a gift card for groceries. Funding for the gift bags came from the Mirak Foundation and several private donations.
 - c. The COA will be adding a weekly Indian Seniors of Arlington group. Modeled after a popular group in Lexington, this group will have Lexington Seniors train Arlington seniors on how to get things up and running and then partner with Lexington on a few combined annual events.
 - d. Other new programs starting in January include a Winter Wednesdays Mental Health Support Group, "Cooking for One" Class, Monthly Movies, Jeopardy, an Info Session with Cambridge Neighbors, a Baking Class series and more.
 - e. Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Applications are due January 31. We are spreading the word about this opportunity as much as possible to home owners reaching out to us for financial assistance.
 - f. Close out of Chestnut Manor Fire fund- rental assistance to displaced residents
 - g. Thank you to all who delivered meals for us on Thanksgiving Morning!
- II. Follow up on Discussion Regarding Increased Financial Assistance
 - a. Arlington Emergency Fund was created through HHS Charitable Foundation
 - b. Giving Tuesday/End of Year Giving Fundraising letter went out Thanksgiving week asking people to give to the fund. Thank you to Mara for drafting the fundraising letter that got this campaign rolling.
 - c. On a state wide call regarding LIHEAP this week, it was explained that applications are more than double what they were this time last year. The agency is processing applications that were sent in October at this point, so wait times for approval are months long, 11,000 applications are received and waiting to be processed.
 - d. We received a \$24,000 donation last week that sustains one of our larger funds for financial assistance each year.
- III. Other
 - a. Open Board Position- Update
 - b. Monthly COA Staff Introduction: Chris Angell